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326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

The Rand Corporation
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Kramish

Gentlemen:

This will confirm your conversation of February 4 with Mr. Deal and me and reply to your letter of the same date.

Mr. Boyer has asked this Division to obtain additional independent studies along the lines of "Project Gabriel". As you know, this was a rather extensive study prepared in 1949 by Dr. H. M. Smith. Its purpose was to determine the long range effects of radiological contamination from atomic bombs. This report has been re-evaluated by Dr. Smith in light of Ranger and Greenhouse data, and elaborated on by the Division of Biology and Medicine staff with particular reference to results from Buster and Jangle.

We are interested in a rather broad study that would be the basis for replying to the following general questions:

- (1) What number of A-bombs detonated under random conditions and over what period of time might create a world-wide hazard in terms of radiological contamination?
- (2) What local catastrophes, to nearby populated areas, are likely to occur from the detonation of different size bombs, various type bursts (i.e., air, low air, surface, underground) under adverse (not carefully picked in advance) weather conditions?

These are questions that are continually arising, and our General Advisory Committee has recommended that further studies be undertaken. We believe that the replies to these questions could have a profound influence on policy decisions regarding the ultimate use of A-bombs.

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February 8, 1952

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If the Rand Corporation can undertake this study, we would appreciate having an indication of the approximate time and estimated cost of the work.

We will be happy to supply any additional information you feel is necessary.

Very truly yours,

W. D. Claus
Chief, Biophysics Branch
Division of Biology & Medicine

WDC:nsd

1A, 2A - Addressee
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